

STATINTL

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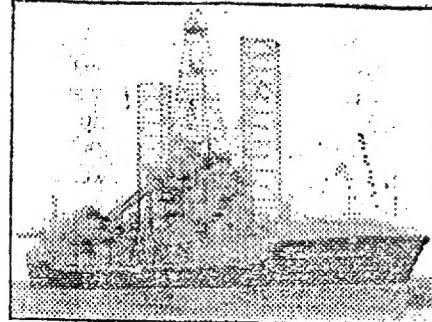
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No Agreement to 'Withhold Publication'

In the interests of accuracy, it should be pointed out that contrary to Maxine Cheshire's Oct. 19 column [Style], I never agreed with then CIA director William Colby to withhold publication of the Glomar Explorer story. In fact, I favored publishing it, as the Los Angeles Times itself reported in an article on March 20, 1975.

As the same article reports, the decision not to publish the story was made at Mr. Colby's request and in the interests of national security by our editor, Bill Thomas, just as similar decisions to withhold publication were made by top news executives of The Post, The Washington Star, The New York Times, the wire services, news magazines and the three television networks.

Most, if not all, reporters who covered the Glomar Explorer story thought it



Glomar Explorer.

should have been published. But I recognized then—and I recognize now—that the decision was a policy matter to be determined by top news executives.

JACK NELSON.

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By Daniel Southerland

Staff correspondent of The Christian Science Monitor

Riding the escalator out of the Paris Metro station, Vladimir Kostov felt a sharp sting just above his belt. At the same time he heard a sound like a pebble striking the metal stairs. He turned to face a tall, athletic-looking man who quickly disappeared into a crowd along the Champs Elysees.

Kostov later learned that the man was an assassin — probably a member of Bulgaria's secret intelligence service. In the eyes of the Bulgarian regime, Vladimir Kostov, a defector to the West and a former member of the Bulgarian Communist Party, was a traitor.

From what a Bulgarian newspaper (RDP91-00901R000500080036A1TINTL) attacker had fired a poison-filled metallic ball about the size of a pinhead into Kostov's back.

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VIP

The Scoop on The Class Reunion

By Maxine Cheshire

COLUMNIST Jack Anderson was about to break the Glomar story, a story that CIA director William Colby had persuaded Jack Nelson of The Los Angeles Times not to run.

To alert Nelson that he was about to be scooped, Colby had his aides track him down.

It wasn't hard to do. He was around the corner from the White House at "The Class Reunion" bar on H Street, where some of the best-known names in journalism regularly hang out with top Carter aides, Capitol Hill staffers, government officials, lobbyists and

International Monetary Fund bankers.

White House press secretary Jody Powell hangs out at "The Class Reunion" and the president has reached him there more than once after work to summon him back for an emergency.

Pollster Pat Cadell, when it's not this close to an election, goes there to unwind.

So do columnists Mary McGrory and Bob Novak, along with ABC's James Wooten, CBS's Ike Pappas, The Boston Globe's Marty Nolan, the Washington Star's Jules Witcover, The Chicago Tribune's Jon Margolis and scores of other reporters who cover the Pentagon and the Justice Department and the most important news beats for Time and Newsweek and the most influential newspapers.

"The Class Reunion," in other words, is one of the best places in Washington to go at the end of the day to get the hot scoop, the real skinny, on what happened or didn't happen or is about to happen in the

Nation's Capital and elsewhere around the globe.

"It's sort of like my neighborhood bar," Chicago Tribune political reporter Jon Margolis said, "I usually don't get a story there but I may get a tip or a quote."

Jay Gourley, "The National Enquirer" reporter whose nose for news took him sniffing into Henry Kissinger's garbage cans in Georgetown for one scoop, finds eavesdropping at "The Class Reunion" bar a good place to hear things.

"I talk business there all the time," says Jack Nelson. "I take sources there. A lot of people take sources there."

But he wouldn't take a "confidential source there if I didn't want people to know who I was talking to," Nelson says.

Nelson is one of the few reporters to be found who seems to be aware that one of "The Class Reunion's" owners is Tom McKeon, a National Security Agency alumni who is now vice president of Intertel, the world's largest private intelligence-gathering network.

One of the tavern's managers, Patty Hutton, said that McKeon is a financial backer, "but he would prefer not to be mentioned in any columns."

Tom McKeon said last week that he is one of the owners.

According to the maitre d' one night last week, McKeon sits at a regular table in the back, near the cash register.

One of the place's biggest attractions for "working stiff" journalists and other customers is that they can run up a tab on credit till payday and also write checks if the management knows you.

Protests over Bill on CIA 'cover' abroad

By A. J. McILROY in Washington

ATTEMPTS by the Central Intelligence Agency to get more effective cover for spying operations overseas have led to widespread protests from within privately funded agencies and government departments who fear they may be used.

The concern surrounds a CIA Bill before the House of Representatives this week and, particularly, a relatively obscure section added to provisions making it an offence for anyone, including journalists and private citizens, to disclose the identity of a CIA operative.

This addition requires the American President to establish "secret procedures" ensuring that intelligence officers and employees, from CIA station chiefs down, be given effective cover.

To this end "any department or agency designated by the President" must render whatever assistance is necessary.

Opponents' fear

Despite CIA assurances to the contrary, opponents of the Bill have warned that agencies once "off-limits" to the CIA would no longer be protected once it became law.

These include the Peace Corps, the Agency for International Development and the International Communication Agency.

The Foreign Service, which has also resisted anything but limited cover for the CIA, is

also said to be vulnerable if the Bill is passed.

Until now, the service has insisted that if intelligence officers must use the service for cover, then operatives cannot rank higher than Foreign Service Reserve.

The Peace Corps has the longest tradition of keeping undercover operatives out of its ranks, a policy enshrined in its constitution when founded in 1961.

Opponents of the CIA Bill have won influential support within the judiciary and more than 50 law professors have signed a letter charging that the provision making it a criminal offence for the disclosure of the identities of CIA operatives by private citizens was in clear breach of the First Amendment.

Won momentum

But the Bill won momentum in the machine-gunning on July 4 of the home of the CIA station chief in Jamaica shortly after his name and other personal details were given in Kingston at a news conference given by an anti-CIA group.

Mr William Colby, former CIA Director, said in an interview that the agency was faced with an alarming situation. "We were standing on a shrinking ice floe as far as cover was concerned," he said.

"It suggests there is something dirty about intelligence, but intelligence is an important part of our national security."

The CIA had to open up the possibilities and avenues available to its operatives overseas, added Mr Colby.

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BILLY NOT ALONE

Agents for Other Lands: a Who's Who

By ROBERT L. JACKSON

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON—Former CIA director William E. Colby is one. So are former Secretary of State William P. Rogers, former Defense Secretary Clark M. Clifford and former Sen. J. William Fulbright. And, of course, Billy Carter.

The capital, in fact, has more than 600 of them—"foreign agents" who have registered with the Justice Department as lobbyists, lawyers and propagandizers for almost every country on earth.

Billy Carter is just the latest and most publicized.

The President's brother was forced to register as a Libyan agent only when threatened with a federal lawsuit. But many agents are quite willing to disclose their activities and fees.

"The law is very clear that our government expects other countries to do this," said Colby, who is helping Japanese interests obtain political intelligence from Washington.

Report Available to Public

Colby—Like Rogers, Clifford, Fulbright and hundreds of others—has filed a brief report with the Justice Department that is available for public viewing. This is required by the Foreign Agents Registration Act, passed by Congress in 1938.

Colby, the nation's top spy from 1973 to 1976, said in his report that he has "collected information and prepared studies" for the Center for Political Public Relations in Tokyo, an institute for political information. He has also "briefed Japanese visitors on American political affairs."

"I help them understand what's happening in Washington," he said in an interview. "I'm not lobbying."

Unlike his years of shadowy work for Uncle Sam, Colby said, "I'm doing all this on top of the table. I

insisted on that with my Japanese colleagues."

Why do foreign countries with large, well staffed embassies in Washington need agents like Colby?

"Well, obviously they're foreigners," he said. "Many of them understand America very well but maybe someone like me understands how the mechanism works a little better. If you go mountain-climbing in Nepal, you'd better hire a local guide."

Japan Has Many Contracts

Japan, in fact, has more local guides than Colby. It has financial contracts with at least 15 Washington-based consultants, public relations specialists and law firms, including the firm where former Sen. Fulbright (D-Ark.) is a partner.

Struggling to keep tabs on this vast array of foreign agents and representatives is an understaffed unit at the Justice Department that has only seven attorneys.

Housed in a shabby office building a block from departmental headquarters, this unit has not prosecuted a big case since 1963, when it went after newspaper columnist Igor Cassini for failing to register as an agent of the Dominican Republic.

Cassini, the brother of fashion designer Oleg Cassini, was close to the Kennedy Administration. But unswayed by his White House links, Justice Department attorneys obtained an indictment charging that he had willfully concealed \$195,000 in agent's fees through a dummy corporation in the Bahamas.

Cassini eventually pleaded "no contest" to the charge, was fined \$10,000 and was placed on probation for six months.

There are obvious parallels to the case of Billy Carter, who tried to hide his receipt of \$220,000 from the Libyan government until pressed by the Justice Department.

But according to Philip B. Heymann, the department's criminal division chief, the difference was that in the Cassini case the government found a written contract stating that Cassini considered himself a foreign agent. Heymann said the department doubted it could prove to a jury that Billy Carter considered himself an agent.

The President's brother registered as a foreign agent last July after department attorneys filed a civil, not a criminal, action against him.

Billy's receipt of \$220,000—although he called it an undocumented loan—is not an excessive sum for agents who are deemed influential. Most large law firms that employ or are owned by former U.S. officials—including Clark Clifford's—can command six-figure contracts as foreign agents.

Clifford's firm was paid \$119,000 by Algeria during a four-month period in 1978 for furnishing legal services and advice on foreign relations, energy and trade matters, public filings show. Algeria's previous foreign agent—former Atty. Gen. Richard G. Kleindienst—was paid \$286,000 over two years.

Rogers, after serving as secretary of state in the Nixon administration, helped represent the government of Indonesia as well as Air France, the official French air line.

His firm, which also includes former Assistant Treasury Secretary Eugene T. Rossides, received \$385,000 from Air France for congressional lobbying and legal work to obtain U.S. landing and takeoff rights for the supersonic Concorde.

'Another Set of Eyes, Ears'

Other successful "foreign agents" are former Sen. George A. Smathers (D-Fla.), former Rep. James W. Symington (D-Mo.) and former commissioner A. Sydney Herlong of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

They are partners in a law firm that has a \$300,000-a-year contract with South Africa to arrange meetings with U.S. officials and to advise on trade and foreign policy issues. Symington says he helps give South Africa "another set of eyes and ears in Washington."

Most registered foreign agents are U.S. citizens but, as Symington says, "I would hardly do anything inimical to our national interests." A liberal with a strong pro-civil rights record when he served in Congress, Symington said he saw no conflict in serving a country that has a tradition of "apartheid" or separation of the races.

"The government over there is trying to make some gestures toward reform in labor unions, in elementary and secondary education and in public accommodations," he said.

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